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FOR NEA/ARP

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/17/2017

TAGS: PTER PGOV PREL YM

SUBJECT: YEMENI-AMERICAN AWLAQI RELEASED FROM ROYG CUSTODY

Classified By: Charge d'Affaires Angie Bryan for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)
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(S) On December 17, Brigadier General Sunidar, Chief of Staff for Minister of Interior al-Alimi, contacted emboff and notified him that Yemeni-American Sheikh Anwar al-Awlaki (AKA Abu Atiq), the alleged spiritual advisor to two of the 9/11 hijackers, had been released from ROYG custody. Awlaki had been held in a Yemeni prison without charge for approximately a year. ROYG contacts told post that they do not have sufficient evidence to charge him and can no longer hold him illegally.

BRYAN